

countless lives. This incredible act of kindness allows a stranger to celebrate another birthday, give birth to a child or share another Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends.

It is fitting, during American Red Cross month, to acknowledge not only the selfless efforts of Mr. Schiefer but also the efforts of the Sandusky Chapter of the American Red Cross and Red Cross Chapters across this country. Since 1960, this chapter has collected over 120,000 pints of blood.

Mr. Schiefer, volunteers of the Sandusky County Chapter of the American Red Cross and Red Cross Volunteers across the country, my colleagues of the 107th Congress and I salute you. Your selfless acts of volunteerism are an example for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO VAL ALVARADO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man of great courage and bravery, a man that this country owes a great debt to. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked a sleeping Pearl Harbor, killing over 2,400 sailors. 60 years later, Val Alvarado of Montrose, Colorado recalls the events that brought the United States of America into the Second World War. Val, who was 18 years old at the time, served aboard the USS *Maryland*. Val's job was to load gun powder into the war ship's 16 inch guns. This was often referred to as the "no warning" tinder box of instant death.

Val and his shipmates were lucky to survive the strike on Pearl Harbor, but those of the neighboring USS *Oklahoma* were not. But if it were not for the fact that the *Oklahoma* was anchored next to them, Val would not be here today. In less than two hours, the United States lost 188 planes, 159 planes and had 18 U.S. warships sunk or seriously crippled. But more than that, the U.S. lost over 2,400 service men, and another 1,100 were injured. One of the service men who died was a close boyhood friend of Val's. "On the fifth day we had time to check on our buddies. I found out that my good friend Jimmy Robinson had been killed. . . . We both came from Montrose, we had gone to Morgan School in Montrose. Jimmy was the first man from Montrose to be killed in the war," Val remembered.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Val was transferred to the USS *McCalla*, whose war prowess is the stuff of legends. The *McCalla*, with Val in tow, returned to the Pacific where it would earn three battle stars.

During his time in the military, Val took part in the Armed Forces Olympics where he boxed in what the Armed Forces called the Nimitz Bowl. "I won the fight between all the army, marines, and navy in the Pacific theatre for my weight. I was pretty proud of that. . . . I was pretty happy about that," according to Val.

Mr. Speaker, over 50 million people died in World War II. It took the courage of 18 year olds like Val for America to eventually win the war. That is why I am asking that we take this moment to recognize and honor Val Alvarado for his service to this country, and to wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

Val is the embodiment of the values that characterized the "Greatest Generation". For his service in WWII, America is exceedingly grateful.

MINING CLAIM MAINTENANCE ACT OF 2001

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation aimed at giving the appropriate authorizing committee of the House an opportunity to do its job and resolve a matter that has had to be addressed by appropriations measures instead. In this regard, the legislation being introduced today would make permanent two provisions relating to the management of mining claims under the Mining Law of 1872.

First, the "Mining Claim Maintenance Act of 2001" would make permanent a provision first enacted into law on a temporary basis by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and then reauthorized through 2001 by the Omnibus Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1999 requiring that holders of unpatented mining claims, mill and tunnel sites under the Mining Law of 1872 pay the Interior Department a \$100 per year maintenance fee in order to hold the claim or site, as well as pay a one-time \$25 location fee.

This provision is in lieu of the 1872 requirement that the holder of a claim or site conduct \$100 per year of "assessment work" in order to maintain the claim or site and the associated annual filing requirement under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

As with current law, provision is also made in this legislation to waive this requirement for holders of valid oil shale claims who must comply with a different regime as set forth under the Energy Policy Act of 1992, as well as for individuals holding 10 or fewer mining claims.

Since this provision has been in effect, speculation on public domain lands under the guise of the Mining Law of 1872 has been dramatically reduced. Indeed, in the year this requirement went into effect there were over 3 million mining claims located on the public lands. Today, there are about 253,000.

Further, as with the current practice, I would expect that the Appropriations Committee would utilize the receipts from the holding fee for the purpose of offsetting the cost of the Interior Department administering the mining law program.

Second, this legislation would make permanent a provision that was first included in the fiscal year 1995 Interior Appropriations Act placing a moratorium on the issuance of what is known as a "patent" for any mining claim and mill site claim except in those situations where "grandfather" rights may exist. The purpose of this provision is to eliminate the absurd practice embodied in the Mining Law of 1872 that allows corporations to receive a patent, which represents fee simple title, to public domain lands encumbered by valid mining or mill site claims at \$2.50 or \$5.00 an acre depending on the type of claim involved.

Mr. Speaker, both of these provisions have received overwhelmingly bipartisan support

when debated as part of the Interior Appropriations legislation over the past several years. I have wholeheartedly supported these actions, and would hope that the Appropriators will continue to include these provisions in the upcoming budget bills if the Resources Committee fails to act. Nonetheless, it is properly the duty of the authorizing committee, the Resources Committee, to address this issue.

These two provisions—the imposition of a maintenance fee and the end to patenting—are part of a larger issue relating to the need to reform the 1872 Mining Law. Unlike other extractive industries, such as coal, timber or oil and gas development, the hard rock mining industry enjoys a special status, provided under the 1872 Mining Law, that allows access and free use of our Nation's rich public domain lands.

As responsible stewards of the public domain and to meet our responsibilities to the American people, it is incumbent upon us to rethink and reform the Mining Law of 1872. To that end, in the near future I will again introduce comprehensive mining law reform legislation.

MILITARY MYTHS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, one of the most thoughtful analysts of the appropriate level for American military spending is Lawrence Korb, a former high ranking Defense Department official in the administration of President Reagan. Unlike many others who served in the Reagan administration and subsequently, Lawrence Korb does not believe that conservatives ought to suspend their skepticism about public spending simply because the requests come from the Pentagon. He has consistently applied his experience with defense matters, his keen intelligence and his knowledge of government to point out that we could fully defend our legitimate interests with a military budget smaller than the current one. Along with Dr. Korb, I am pleased that President Bush is refusing to be pressured into asking for billions of dollars in increased military spending before he and his staff have a chance to study the important issues that are raised by Dr. Korb and others. But I also agree with Dr. Korb that an accurate analysis of the defense budget requires discarding some of the points which President Bush himself made during the campaign.

In a recent article, Lawrence Korb set forward some of the principles that ought to guide such an investigation of our true defense spending needs. Mr. Speaker, I disagree with Mr. Korb's first point, to some extent substantively, and also in the way in which he has phrased it. The fact that most military people aren't on food stamps does not mean that it is acceptable for even a small number of them to be in that situation. We owe the men and women who volunteer to face danger on our behalf better than this, and I am very supportive of proposals to raise the pay levels. Given the disruption of their lives and the danger they face, I do believe that our military personnel are underpaid.

But while I disagree with Dr. Korb's first point, I am an enthusiastic believer in the rest